Closing of the building of the Indian Asiatic Society in Calcutta

2388. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the building of the Indian Asiatic Society in Calcutta has been closed for repairs;

(b) if so, what alternate arrangement has been made to carry on its work; and

(c) by when the repair work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI): (a) and (b) The Library, Museum and Archives have been closed and lectures and seminars in the Society Hall discontinued with effect from 1st March, 1986. Other than the above activities, the Society is carrying out its normal functions including research and academic activities. Alternate arrangement could not be made for storing books and archival documents of the old building for lack of extra accommodation elsewhere.

(c) The repair work of the building is expected to be completed by the end of June, 1986.

Combination of antibiotics with corticosteriods

2389. SHRI NAND KISHORE BHATT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that combination of an antibiotic with another antibiotic or antibiotics with corticosteriods or other active substances are being marketed in our country;

(b) if so, the names of all such combinations allowed for marketing in our country;

(c) whether it is a fact that such combinations are prohibited in a number of countries;

(d) whether there is any proposal to withdraw such combinations in the country; and

(e) if so, by when?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) There are combinations of antibiotic with another antibiotic marketed in India. However, manufacture and sale of fixed dose combination of steriods with other drugs for internal use except for the treatment of asthma is prohibited.

(b) As licences for manufacture and sale of formulations are granted by the State Drug Control Authorities, we do not have names of all such combinations marketed in the country.

However, combinations of antibiotics with antibiotics such as combination of Chloramphenicol and Streptomycin for the treatment of infective diarrhoea and combination of Ampicillin and Cloxacillin for the treatment of mixed severe infections are marekted in the country.

(c) we do not have information whether such combinations marketed in the country are prohibited in other countries.

(d) and (e) There is as yet no proposal to withdraw such combinations in the country.

Killer Drug in vide Usage

2390. DR. JOSEPH LEON D'SOUZA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item appeared in 'Indian Express' of 27th December, 1985 under the caption "Killer drug still in vide usage";

(b) whether it is a fact that tandril, zolandin, sugarnil, butazolidin, butacoate are being marketed in our country;

(c) whether it is a fact that the drugs on which these medicines are based have caused at least 15,000 deaths in U.K.;

(d) whether it is also a fact that these medicines are causing serious side effects and a number of countries have banned the marketing of these medicines as well as other products based on these drugs;

(e) whether any steps have been taken to ban these products in our country; and

(f) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The World Health Organisation had informed the member countries that the preparations containing Oxyphenbutazone and Phenylbutazone have been withdrawn from Norway, Israel, U.K., Finland, Zimbabwe, Jordan, United Arab Emirates and the use of these drugs in some countries has been restricted to the treatment of ankylosing spondylitis and gouty arthritis only. This action has been taken as a result of reported adverse reactions of aplastic anaemia, agranulocytosis due to these drugs resulting in deaths in some countries. We have no information on reports of 15,000 deaths in U.K. as claimed in the press report.

(e) and (f) The Indian Council of Medical Research and Indian Medical Association (IMA), were of the opinion that the drugs Oxyphenbutazone and Phenylbutazone are useful drugs and there is, therefore, no case of total withdrawal of these drugs from the market. However, the use of these drugs has been restricted for the treatment of ankylosing spondylitis and gouty arthritis only. Manufactureres of these drugs have been directed through their Association and the State Drug Control Authorities to incorporate precautions and contra-indication in the package inserts and in the promotional literature on these drugs.

Combination of Tranquillisers with Analgesics

2391. SHRI NAND KISHORE BHATT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that combination of tranquillisers with analgesics are being marketed in our country;

(b) if so, the names of brands having such composition being marketed in our country alongwith the names of the manufacturers;

(c) whether Government are aware about the adverse effects of medicines containing tranquillisers with analgesics;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof;

(e) whether it is a fact that such a combination is not being marketed anywhere in the world;

(f) if so, what are the reasons for granting permission for such combination;

(g) whether such a permission was granted on the basis of clinical trials; and

(h) if so, what are the names of the institutions where the trials were conducted alongwith the details of the report in each case?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As licences for manufacture and sale of formulations are granted by the State Drug Control Authorities, we do not have all the names of the formulations marketed in the country.

(c) and (d) Toxic effects are fatalities following over-dose of dextropropoxyphene alone or in combination